

To the secretariat  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee  
Rm S1-61  
Parliament House

The introduction of the anti-terrorism bill 2 will: create a new offence of associating with a person linked with a terrorist organisation; Grant to the authorities the power to prevent people from leaving Australia even before an ASIO warrant has been issued against them; Grant to the authorities the power to seize foreign passports from suspects; Allow the Attorney-General to transfer convicted and remand prisoners to another state 'in the interest of security'; Intrude into the privacy of citizen by allowing investigators to access the National Criminal Investigation DNA database in the event of a domestic mass casualty incident.

These laws cannot be justified, especially following the original anti-terrorism legislation passed in the senate, and in conjunction with swaths of anti-terrorist legislation passed through state governments as well. When will the erosion of civil liberties at the hands of terrorist paranoia stop? It must be now or it may be never.

Greater increases in state powers are not required. More security for Australia can be obtained by disarmament and responsible diplomacy than more draconian legislation aimed at reducing civil liberties and increasing the power of security forces.

Thank You  
BEN KEANEY  
Watson A.C.T.